



REPORT

ON THE

Health of the County Borough of West Bromwich

AND

Examination of School Children

FOR THE YEAR 1910, BY

HERBERT MANLEY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough.

WEST BROMWICH:

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MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

Population, 1901 Census	65,175
Number of Houses, 1901 Census...	13,706
Estimated Population, 1910	...	...	...	70,500
Area	...	...	...	5,860 acres.

Height of West Bromwich—

Highest Level is	...	...	...	573-ft.
Lowest Level is	...	...	...	347-ft.

Rateable Value of Property assessed to the

Relief of the Poor, November, 1910	...	£234,906	10	0
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Rateable Value of Property assessed to the

General District Rate, November, 1910	...	£215,783	0	0
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Number of Houses in the Borough,

November, 1910	15,179
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*TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I have the honour to present my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health and Medical Examiner of School Children for the year 1910.

As you are aware, at the close of the year 1909 I was unfortunately the victim of a severe illness, culminating in an attack of paralysis, which prevented me from issuing as complete and detailed a report on my work as usual, but I trust in the present Report no shortcomings will be detected. In spite of my long illness and tedious convalescence, I have been able to complete the whole of my School duties and to keep everything strictly up to date. The work of School Inspection involves so immense an amount of purely clerical and statistical work that this would have been wholly impossible but for the assistance employed by me and the kindly sympathy and co-operation, not only of yourselves but of the large majority of my fellow officials, to all of whom I tender my sincere thanks.

In School matters we have arrived at a point when the results of inspection have to be seriously considered, with a view to further remedial measures, details of which will be found in my Report.

In sanitation good progress has been made. The Refuse Destructor, after a struggle extending far back into the time of my predecessor, has been erected and is at work. So far no nuisance has been observed from its working, nor do I expect that such will ever be the case. The provision of anti-toxin and the systematic inspection of house property, with a view to the Town Planning Act, were matters which had already been put in operation by you before the circulars of the Local Government Board; in fact, your Sanitary Committee is fully up to date in its action.

With many thanks for marked and continued courtesy from all the members of the Council, especially during my illness,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

HERBERT MANLEY,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population,
etc.

The population for the year 1910 is estimated by me at 70,500, which is rather less than the figure given by the Registrar-General. We are in the last year of an inter-censal period, and it is impossible to form a really accurate idea of our population. The annual increase of the previous inter-censal period was 568, and I have taken that as the basis of my estimate. I have good reason to believe that the flow of population is out of the Borough, and not into it, and this is supported by the number of children attending our schools, which shows a considerable annual leakage when compared with the total of Births.

The Census, which will be taken next April, will once again give us an accurate idea of our position, and further comment will then be possible. There are slightly over 15,000 inhabited houses in the Borough, which shows that there can be no real cause for overcrowding and no need for excess of population on area.

Town
Planning

Your Medical Officer has always been perfectly alive to the existence of certain parts of the Borough in which at a price schemes of town planning could be carried out, but while a rigid system of house-to-house inspection is continually carried on, neither the improvement in sanitary affairs which would be attained nor the financial position of the town has justified him in making any sweeping recommendations of an expensive character. The extension of the powers of the Sanitary Committee in closing houses unfit for human habitation is being taken full advantage of by your Officers, and this activity will increase rather than diminish as time goes on.

Births

During the past year 2,020 births were registered, of which 60 took place in the Union Workhouse. This number of Workhouse births seems to be fairly constant, at the rate of one per week. It is greatly to be desired that when in the course of time we arrive at some measure of Poor-Law Reform it will be found possible to remove the stigma of pauper birth from these babies, who too often swell the ranks of permanent pauperism.

DEATHS.

The total deaths occurring within the Borough, including institutions, amounted to 1,022 of our own people and 134 of outsiders; 8 deaths of our own residents were recorded from Birmingham. This gives a total death-rate of 16.6, or when corrected by the above figures 14.4, which is exceptionally good for a district of our class.

Deaths

The total deaths from infant mortality expressed in terms per thousand births constitutes a record for West Bromwich, amounting to 106, so that we are gradually nearing the much-to-be-desired 10 per cent. The causes to which that reduction is due are so numerous and so complex that it is impossible to lay stress upon any individual factor, but there can be no doubt that the notification of births, the improvement in the status of the midwives, and the labours of our Health Visitor have all played their part in this very marked decrease.

Infant
Mortality

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of the notifiable diseases occurring in the Borough during the year was 487, including Scarlet Fever 373, Erysipelas 71, Diphtheria 30, Puerperal Fever 8, and Typhoid Fever 5.

Notifiable
Diseases

It is to be noted that the number of Scarlet Fever cases is in excess of the estimated number, but in our circumstances, surrounded by dense urban populations on almost every side, it is difficult to form accurate forecasts of the lines of epidemic development.

Scarlet Fever

Thus in the year 1910 there were with us 373 cases of Scarlet Fever, of which we removed to Hospital 304. During the same period Handsworth, with approximately the same population had 457, and Smethwick no less than 564. At the same time Wednesbury, which probably by reason of its greater distance from a large city like Birmingham is less exposed to chance infection, recorded only 63.

The working of the Hospital during the year has been worthy of no special comment, although considerable pressure was put upon our accommodation by the outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the Wigmore Poor-Law Schools, recorded elsewhere

Scarlet Fever in this Report. Although for a few weeks we were somewhat crowded, no ill resulted and no failure of isolation occurred, nor is there any reason to desire any increase in the number of beds provided.

The reports of Scarlet Fever were further complicated by the outbreak of the disease in the Wigmore Poor-Law Schools, occupied jointly by the Unions of West Bromwich and Walsall. No less than 51 cases were removed to Hospital from this School, and in accordance with regulations I paid a special visit and made a special report to my Committee, a copy of which is here inserted:—

“ 25th November, 1910.

“ To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee of the County Borough of West Bromwich.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have the honour to present to you my Report on the outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the Wigmore Poor-Law Schools situate within the Borough, which commenced on July 5th, and is still continuing at the present date.

“ The School was undoubtedly infected from outside as the first case occurred in the person of the School's errand boy, whose duty it was to go regularly to the nearest Post Office and other errands.

“ The Schools are unfortunately without any proper or effective place for isolation and appear, from what I am told, to be habitually overcrowded. I have visited and inspected the school buildings in company with the recently appointed Medical Officer, who is doing his best to cope with a condition which had arisen before his connection with the institution.

“ I am told that, according to the official returns made to the Poor-Law Authorities, there is accommodation for 456 children, but I am unable to discover it. At the time of my visit it appeared to be quite full with 344 inmates, the only spare beds being in the so-called infirmary and in the ‘ top building,’ which is quite unsuited for the purposes for which it is used.

“ The Medical Officer has been compelled to isolate cases in the Porter's Lodge, which has resulted in the fever spreading to the wife of the Porter, who is now in the Isolation Hospital. Scarlet Fever

“ In the Boys' Dormitory there are 112 beds, but frequently it has been necessary to overcrowd this Ward. In the Girls' Dormitory there are also 112 beds, but they are much better arranged. The cubic space of these rooms is 34,559 cub. ft. apiece.

“ Every effort is made by the Superintendent and the Medical Officer to deal with the outbreak, but in the limited space at their disposal effective work is impossible.

“ It is essential that proper provision should be made for isolation, not only of Infectious Diseases, but of such complaints as Scabies and Purulent Ophthalmia, and as there is an abundance of spare land a properly equipped building could easily be erected at a considerable distance from the main block.

“ I am also of the opinion that the number of children to be accommodated should be carefully revised and strict attention paid to the prevention of overcrowding. It surely cannot be permitted that two and three children should be put into one bed in such an institution as this.

“ As required by law a copy of this Report has been sent to the Local Government Board, and I propose also to forward a copy to the Wigmore Board of Management.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ HERBERT MANLEY,

“ Medical Officer of Health.”

It will be noticed that only five cases of Enteric Fever Enteric Fever were reported during the year, of which two unfortunately proved fatal. The gradual abolition of the privy midden to which the officers of the Corporation have given their unremitting attention ever since there were sewers available, coupled with the abolition of refuse tips which is now just commencing, has borne some fruit, and it is confidently to be expected that a typhoid record will become a thing of the bad past of this district.

Scarlet Fever

One case of Scarlet Fever was reported as occurring in Sandwell Hall, which is used as a School for imbecile and defective children. I also visited this institution and interviewed the resident Medical Officer, by whom adequate measures of isolation were promptly undertaken; one subsequent case only was reported.

Diphtheria

Thirty cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year, but there is reason to doubt whether all these were cases of genuine Diphtheria. The supply of antitoxin was allowed to all applicants free of charge before any circular was received from the Local Government Board, but it was stipulated that the case should, if possible, be submitted for bacteriological verification. It is a matter for regret that so little use is made of the opportunities offered for free bacteriological examination by the medical men, with one or two notable exceptions. Only 14 cases were sent in for examination, of which four only were said to show Diphtheria Bacilli. One case of Typhoid was submitted also with a negative result.

The cases of Diphtheria were all treated in their own houses, as it has not yet been found possible to set apart a Ward in the Hospital, nor would the number of genuine cases justify the expense which would be incurred.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Phthisis

Sixty-eight cases of Phthisis were reported from the Union Workhouse during the year and 20 cases from outside. I do not, however, feel at all confident that the District Medical Officers report all their cases, as they grumble at the smallness of the shilling fee, and several cases have come under notice from other causes which were under treatment and had not been reported. Twenty-seven cases died in the Union Workhouse from Phthisis and 28 outside, giving a total death-rate from Phthisis of 0.7 per 1,000, which is not excessive for a population such as ours. Certainly so long as the Phthisis death-rate continues to keep below one per thousand there will be no need of agitation for a Tubercular Sanatorium.

Infant
Mortality

INFANT MORTALITY.

Attention has already been drawn to the satisfactory death-rate of infants, but special notice may be taken of the

fact that no death has occurred from over-laying and only two from accident, *i.e.*, burns. Further than this only nine deaths under one year of age are assigned to tubercle.

Infant
Mortality

THE SANITARY STATE OF THE BOROUGH.

The chief event of the year has been the completion of the new Refuse Destructor, which has been erected by Messrs. Heenan and Froude. We are now proceeding to take into our own control the whole of the refuse removal, so as to ensure the regular delivery of refuse to maintain a constant supply of fuel at the works. It is also probable that there will be a saving of annual expenditure by this reform. It has been more than once suggested that more use should be made of the Destructor, but having regard to the proximity of the Electric Works and a large Council School, it is quite out of the question that any depôt for the deposit or burning of excreta should take place there. This provision was insisted upon in the original agreement with the Electricity Committee when the land was acquired.

Refuse
Destructor

The slaughter-houses have been regularly visited and no complaint has arisen, and the Special Meat Inspector has not had occasion to take any legal action during the year. The new provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act have been duly noted by your officers and action has been taken in three cases. One owner appeared before the Committee. The systematic inspection of all houses which has been in operation for some years past is regularly continued in accordance with the circular received from the Local Government Board.

Slaughter-
houses

The Report of the Health Visitor is appended, and other facts will be found in the Reports of the Chief Inspector, etc., which will appear in due course.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1910.

The work for the past year has been the working of the Early Notification of Births Act, the supervision of the practice

of the Certified Midwives in the Borough (under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health), the visiting of certain dirty houses and neglected children, and to enquire into cases of Puerperal Fever.

Early
Notification
of Births Act

In connection with the Early Notification of Births Act, 1,210 cases occurring in the midwives' practice have been visited as early as possible after birth and advice given as to suitable clothing and feeding. This is a most essential thing, as so many mothers give their children bread sop, arrowroot biscuits, rusks, etc., even where there is a plentiful supply of breast milk.

Feeding of
Infants

Of the 1,210 infants 1,087 were breast fed, 80 bottle fed, 20 illegitimate, 30 still births, 22 died almost immediately after birth, and one was post-humously born.

Where the children have to be bottle fed, the favourite shape is the one with the tube; few of the mothers can be induced to use the boat-shaped bottle, and every little child is given a dummy teat. These are so often dropped on the floor or rubbed with dirty fingers.

Clothing of
Infants

The clothing of the infants in most cases is fairly clean and plentiful, but the flannel is not on the back and chest, where most required. Every effort has been made to show the mothers how to get more benefit out of the material used.

It is most satisfactory to notice that almost all the mothers have been able to devote themselves to their domestic duties.

Births
Statistics

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS STATISTICS.

Breast fed.	Bottle fed.	Illegitimate.	Still Births.	Died at once.	Posthumous.
1057	... 80	... 20	... 30	... 22	... 1

Certified
Midwives

There are 36 certified midwives in the Borough, 27 *bona-fide* and 9 trained.

During the year two *bona-fide* midwives have died, Mrs. Colley, John Street, and Mrs. Haycock, Grout Street.

At the beginning of the year there were 7 trained, 2 have been added to the number, making 9 in all.

Two hundred visits have been paid, and their work on the whole has been very satisfactory.

In the early part of the year the midwives in this town formed a union. This is a step in the right direction. They are very proud of the fact that the Medical Officer of Health is their Honorary President.

Midwives' Union

From time to time the nurses meet for social intercourse and to discuss questions affecting their work. Several very helpful lectures have been given by different medical men.

I would like especially to draw the attention of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Committee to the fact that several uncertified women are doing midwifery. This is unfair to the certified women, who are so closely supervised; as the uncertified women do not notify, their cases are seldom visited. These women have been visited since April 1st, 1910, and warned that it is illegal for them to practise; very little notice has been taken of this warning.

Uncertified Midwives

Eight cases have been reported as Puerperal Fever and investigated.

Puerperal Fever

Miscellaneous and Re-visits	...	...	800
Visits to Midwives	...	...	200
Notification of Birth Visits	...	...	1210
			—
	Total	...	2210
			—

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. E. STAPLES,

Health Visitor.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered 6.	Number	Rate.					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1900	64630	2242	34.2	439	191	1453	22.4	256	106	Not recorded.	1347	20.8
1901	65200	2229	34.0	363	163	1211	18.5	205	88		1123	17.2
1902	65910	2287	34.6	372	162	1433	21.7	255	126		1307	19.3
1903	66560	2193	33.9	376	164	1199	18.1	223	106		1093	16.3
1904	67190	2254	33.5	337	149	1172	17.4	239	103		1076	15.9
1905	67820	2137	31.5	321	150	1255	18.5	280	127	6	1134	16.7
1906	68470	2171	31.6	347	159	1205	17.5	272	142	12	1075	15.6
1907	69120	2052	29.9	312	151	1271	18.4	303	139	4	1136	16.4
1908	69700	2268	32.5	319	140	1259	18.0	312	137	10	1132	16.0
1909	70000	2134	30.5	262	122	1356	19.3	303	162	10	1204	17.0
Averages for years 1900-1909		2197	32.6	345	155	1281	19.0	265	124	8	1163	17.1
1910	70500	2020	28.0	213	106.5	1180	16.8	292	141	9	1048	14.8

TABLE II.

I.	II.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
District Hospital Union Workhouse Isolation Hospital Wigmore Schools Sandwell Hall	The various Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the City of Birmingham

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1910.

Notifiable Disease.					Cases notified in whole District, at all Ages.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
Smallpox	...	...	..	...	Nil	Nil
Cholera	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)					30	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	..	...	71	Nil
Scarlet Fever		...	...	...	373	304
Typhus Fever		...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever		...	...	..	5	1
Relapsing Fever		..	...	...	Nil	Nil
Continued Fever		...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever		...	...	...	8	Nil
Plague	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Totals					487	305

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Measles	9	3	5	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	9	1	8	...	...	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	..	5	1	...	...	...	1
Croup	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ..	9	...	1	...	6	2	...	3
Diarrhœa	34	19	13	...	...	1	1	...
Enteritis	10	6	1	...	...	3	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	..	1	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	55	...	1	2	5	46	1	27
Other Tuberculous Diseases	29	11	13	1	2	2	...	6
Cancer, malignant Disease	47	...	...	...	...	30	17	13
Bronchitis	99	21	11	1	...	29	37	17
Pneumonia	68	14	19	2	3	20	10	9
Pleurisy	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	3	2	...	...	...	..	1	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	14	...	...	...	...	13	1	2
Venereal Diseases	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ..	37	37	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..	8	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	68	3	1	10	4	36	14	29
Accidents	28	...	6	7	5	6	4	24
Suicides	5	...	...	...	1	4	...	...
Murder	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All Other Causes ...	334	90	15	11	3	80	135	144
All Causes ...	888	213	102	36	25	289	223	292

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES,	Certified	...	41	9	8	7	65	21	32	12	8	11	10	6	5	13	12	11	206
	Uncertified	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	7
Measles ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Scarlet Fever ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Diarrhœa, all forms ...			...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	3	2	1	...	...	1	5	1	20
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...			...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	5
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...			...	18	4	5	4	31	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Congenital Defects ...			...	5	...	...	1	6	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Injury at Birth ...			...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...			...	11	3	2	...	16	4	11	3	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	39
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	1	...	1	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis ...			...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rickets ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	4
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	5
Convulsions ...			...	4	1	...	2	7	2	3	2	1	3	1	...	1	4	...	25
Bronchitis ...			...	1	...	1	...	2	3	4	3	1	1	3	1	...	1	2	22
Pneumonia ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	2	1	2	14
Other causes ...			...	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	6
			42	9	8	7	66	21	33	13	8	13	10	6	5	15	12	11	213

TABLE VI.

PARTICULARS AS TO ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.*No. of Workshops at the end of 1910:—*

Workshop Bakehouses...	...	...	...	51
Breeze Banks	...	...	...	13
Dressmaking and Tailoring Establishments			...	74
Miscellaneous Trades	...	...	...	177
Total				<u>315</u>

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under Public Health Acts:—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	3
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	2
				<u>9</u>

Seven references were made by H.M. Inspector as to matters
remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under
the Factory Acts.

Report of the School Medical Examiner.

REPORT ON THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN OF WEST BROMWICH.

The Education Code for the year 1910-11 made no addition to the classes of children to be examined under the Education (Amendment) Act, and therefore the whole of the children have as before been examined as soon as convenient after admission, and also on attaining the age of twelve, just before the period of their compulsory attendance expires. As admission is continuous, and examination of eighteen schools necessarily intermittent, the same principle has been followed of examining all admitted children in their fifth year of life. This enables some degree of uniformity for comparison to be attained, as in some schools children are not admitted until their fifth birthday, and this year, in consequence of the increased demands made on space by the new requirements, few schools admit under five at all. Under this heading 820 children have been examined on admission, particulars of whom are to be found in the Tables appended to the Report.

The principle of keeping records with which I started, and which I have had the pleasure of explaining to you in detail, has so far proved quite successful, and the rule of keeping a duplicate card for each child is most convenient. The accurate working of this system depends upon making every teacher responsible for possessing at the School a card for every child under his or her care born since January 1st, 1902, there being a duplicate card in the office cabinet. As constant migration takes place from school to school, not only within but from without and to without the Borough, a sort of clearing house for cards is provided, which is under the charge of Mr. Greenhalgh, the Inspector of Meals. I cannot too strongly express my indebtedness to this officer for the careful and accurate manner in which he has discharged a duty by no means easy and kept the office cabinet in order.

The summer months were occupied in the examination of all new admissions, and as far as possible in picking up any omissions which might have occurred in previous years. The statistics of the children who were born in 1905 and who attained school age in 1910 are fully set out in tabular form. In addition to that time has been found to review the contents of the office cabinet, which now contains a card for every child at present attending school and born on or after January 1st, 1902. These number in all 4,843, and for each card there is a duplicate at the school at which the child is in attendance.

During the whole three years 73 per cent. of the parents have attended the sittings of the Medical Officer. It is a matter of regret that this attendance has dropped from 88, but at the first onset curiosity and the novelty attracted many who do not keep up the habit, but become negligent.

This is also the place in which to speak of the results attained by the examination. Unfortunately, it is not possible to give an accurate account of this, as so far no systematic re-inspections have been authorised, but I am quite in agreement with the unanimous expressions of the teaching staff that the standard of cleanliness has risen considerably, and certainly considerable attention has been paid to noses and throats which used to be wholly neglected. I have again to record the hearty co-operation of the great majority of the teachers, especially in the more difficult work done in the infant departments. The improved state of the children is largely due to the influence exercised by these teachers; in some schools the attendance of parents has always been well over 90 per cent., and the teacher takes a pride in keeping up the record.

The appointment of a new officer charged with special attention to the free breakfast question and also as an auxiliary to the Medical Examiner, has enabled me to keep in touch with the question of under-fed children; very few cases of mal-nutrition have come under my notice, and all these had received attention before I saw them.

Before leaving the general question of the supervision of our children, something must be said of the future measures which are needed to make this supervision effective. I refer principally to the means which should be taken to ensure that

the defects detected by the Medical Examiner should be remedied. I have already spoken of underfed children, and the Report issued by the Superintendent of Meals is most valuable reading, but my chief anxiety has been to impress upon parents that there is no logical reason why they should not be held responsible for the cleanliness and well-being of those beings whom they have brought into this world.

Few children in West Bromwich go without bread and butter, and to judge from what I have myself observed they are not taught to value it, as may be seen in many streets at nine o'clock any school-day morning. I believe that in West Bromwich the Japanese proverb holds true, "Famine does not exist for the children." But I am anxious that the Education Committee should seriously consider that the work done by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is more properly work which should be done by themselves as standing in *loco parentis* to the child of school age. Whatever schemes for school clinics are adopted, I am strongly of opinion that some effort should be made to compel some payment in part for the work done, and that not less than half the cost of treatment should be defrayed by the parents. It may be said that this will trench upon the duties at present discharged under the Poor Law, but that does not deter me from recommending it. Another burning question is the provision of some school for those who are mentally or physically incapable of benefiting by ordinary school teaching or who for the good of other children are excluded from school. It becomes a serious matter to exclude permanently children from school when the only alternative is to throw them into the gutter to become permanent and uncontrolled degenerates, who may in time produce a race similar to themselves.

But all these measures cost ready cash, and the promise of future prizes is distant and speculative, besides which the question is one which is more national than local and exceedingly expensive for small communities.

Your Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning at the Education Office at 9 a.m. for the purpose of seeing any cases which have been referred to him by the Attendance Committee or in which the Attendance Officers desire his opinion. On these days it is necessary to exclude from school attendance

a certain number of cases for physical reasons. On these mornings during school weeks no less than 254 children were seen, mostly in company with a parent or grandparent. Where sickness was pleaded as a cause of absence from school every enquiry and examination possible was made, and I trust that it will be impossible to allege any case in which full opportunity has not been given to parents.

One hundred and fifty-seven children have been excluded from school attendance for longer or shorter periods, according to the nature of the case.

The principles upon which exclusion is granted fall under two heads—the health of the child and the welfare of the other children around it in school. One hundred and fifty-seven children were thus excluded, classified as follows:—

Verminous	...	...	46, excluded only until cleansed.
Skin Disease	...	...	10 ,, ,, ,, cured.
St. Vitus' Dance	...	...	19, excluded for 3—6 months.
Tuberculosis	...	...	23, most of these excluded permanently.
Mental Deficiency	...	...	7, all permanent.
Eyesight	...	...	3
Heart Disease	...	...	7
Epilepsy	...	...	5, permanent.
Spinal Disease	...	...	3
Paralysis	...	...	2
etc., etc., etc.			

Attention has been paid to all medical certificates either from private practitioners or hospital physicians, and every effort has been made to give relief to every genuine case, and where there appeared to be neglect or carelessness on the part of the parent to induce them to seek proper advice for the improvement of the condition of the child. If there have been times when I have been discourteous, it has been where the condition of dirt or vermin has been such that nothing more was needed than ordinary maternal care. The continual and absolute indifference of the working class mother to the presence of head and body lice is most astounding and deplorable, and I think nothing short of a strict enforcement of Sec. 122 of the Children's Act will convince them of their negligent attitude.

It only remains to state the average height and weight of the children of leaving age, *i.e.*, between 12 and 13, was as follows:—

Boys: 54 inches, *i.e.*, 137 centim.; and 70 lb., *i.e.*, 31.6 kilo. The girls are just a little below the boys.

Among the 5—6 children the boys average 95 cent. and 17 kilo., and the girls exceed these figures by .25 only.

The time taken in examination averages between five and six minutes, but occasionally, especially when the parent is present and desires the child to be stripped, as much as twenty minutes may be given to one case; these exceptional cases are not reckoned in taking an average.

In addition to the routine work at the Schools, the Medical Examiner attends at the Office at 9 a.m. every Saturday morning to interview cases referred to him by the Committee or by the Attendance Officers. There every opportunity is given to the parent to produce the child, and if sickness is pleaded as a cause for absence the excuse is accepted if satisfactory evidence is produced that the parents are doing their best for the child. If the child is physically unfit for school it requires proper medical attention, which it is the duty of the parents to provide. It is my function to accentuate parental responsibility.

I have also examined all the candidates for Bursaries under the Committee sent to me.

In examining the children about to leave, I have made particular enquiry in every case where the child is below Standard V., and while much is of course due to dullness and naturally bad surroundings or heredity, the migration from school to school forms a very large factor in backwardness, as every move usually loses a standard or produces a fall of a standard as compared with the previous school.

The School Medical Examiner should, however, be something more than merely a recording clerk of defective children. In my opinion it should fall within the scope of his office to note some of the side issues of elementary education which only come within the observations of those who spend many

hours in school and which inevitably escape the managers or the members of Committee whose visits are occasional and far between.

As Medical Officer of Health the problem of leakage in our population has always been a matter of difficulty to me, but the figures of the schools confirm very strongly the existence of a serious stream of emigrants. The co-existence of a disappointing increase in population, coupled with a serious leakage in school population, as compared with the birth-rate, presents a serious problem which may well engage the minds of all thinking inhabitants of our Borough, and next year, when the census will give us reliable figures up-to-date, I shall have more to say on this subject.

Numerous enquiries have been made of me as to whether I have noticed any nervous strain arising from the education, especially among the younger children. No such case has come before me, and I am told that this is largely due to recent modifications in the method pursued in the Infant departments during the period of office of the present Government Inspectors. I have paid great attention to the method pursued in several of the Infant Schools, and have seen nothing in the way of pressure which needed criticism. Much, of course, of the ease with which my work is done has depended on the more or less hearty co-operation of the teachers, from the large majority of whom I have received the most loyal assistance.

I am now about to undertake the first re-examination of the children originally examined on admission, and am appending to this Report the results of one school. It is probable that next year this re-examination will be added to the requirements of the Department in London.

In all cases the height and weight of the children is taken in the presence of the Medical Examiner. An attempt was made to delegate this and one or two other details to teachers, but it was found much more satisfactory to have it done under one's own eye; this has been the experience of many of my colleagues in the same service. The average height of boys at the age of five is found to be $40\frac{1}{4}$ inches, very little variation being detected between the different schools; the

weight I regard as below the normal, being only an average of 37.5 lbs. At this age a boy should weigh at least lbs. for inches and should equal the girls.

The girls of the same age averaged 40.75 inches and 37.75 lbs., bearing a very similar ratio to the boys.

The statistical tables appended to this Report set out very fully the condition of the children examined, but there are one or two points which deserve a short notice. The first point to which the attention of an Examiner is directed is the state of the child generally; its degree of nutrition and general state of cleanliness or otherwise. Following on this greater detail is needed. The presence of actual live vermin in the hair or on the body is fortunately becoming rarer than when the work began, but it is very difficult to persuade the mothers of this town that nits are but eggs which may come to life any day and which can and should be removed. The marks of bed vermin are not infrequent, and in this the value of the double office of Health Officer and School Examiner being combined in one person leads promptly to compulsory cleansing of many houses.

It is a pleasant duty to record that the cases of vermin noted this year show a great decrease, and it is to be hoped that in time the number will be negligible, but much solid and determined work is before us.

TABLE A.

CHILDREN BORN IN 1905.

School.	Boys.		Girls.		Total.		Parents seen.		Cases noted.			
Beeches Road	...	22	...	19	...	41	...	29	...	10	...	5
Black Lake	...	40	...	41	...	81	...	51	...	13	...	9
Bull Lane	...	15	...	18	...	33	...	27	...	9	...	6
Golds Hill	...	11	...	12	..	23	...	18	...	10	...	9
Greets Green	...	36	...	36	...	72	...	54	...	13	...	21
Guns Village	...	45	...	46	...	91	...	73	...	18	...	17
Lodge Estate	...	32	...	34	...	66	...	42	...	9	...	12
Fisher Street	...	8	...	22	...	30	...	30	...	4	...	7
Lyng	21	...	17	...	38	..	36	...	10	...	9
Moor Street	...	20	...	19	...	39	...	28	...	6	...	8
Spon Lane	...	41	...	27	...	68	...	36	...	17	...	14
Hill Top	...	27	...	30	...	57	...	23	...	12	...	16
Bratt Street	...	13	...	12	...	25	...	18	...	9	...	11
All Saints	..	25	...	20	...	45	...	30	...	11	...	8
Christ Church	...	16	...	13	...	29	...	14	...	4	...	2
Trinity	...	5	...	3	...	8	...	—	...	2	...	1
St. James'	...	15	...	24	...	39	...	20	...	8	...	9
St. Michael's	...	6	...	1	...	7	...	—	...	1	...	—
St. Peter's	...	16	...	12	..	28	...	21	...	3	...	2
Totals	...	414	...	406	...	820	...	550	...	169	...	166

TABLE B.

CHILDREN BORN IN 1905.

School.		Clothes.	Boots.	Unclean.	Vermin.	Teeth.	Nose.	Throat.	Eyes.	Ears.	Hearing.	Phthisis.
Beeches Road	...	1	1	1	1	5	—	1	2	3	2	1
Black Lake	...	1	2	1	1	10	1	—	2	2	3	—
Bull Lane	...	—	1	2	3	5	—	—	4	1	—	—
Golds Hill	...	—	7	6	1	8	1	—	—	2	1	—
Greets Green	...	3	1	8	5	13	5	3	4	3	2	—
Guns Village	...	7	2	4	6	14	2	3	3	4	2	2
Lodge Estate	...	1	1	2	2	8	1	2	3	1	2	2
Lyng ...	...	—	—	3	3	6	3	2	2	—	1	2
Moor Street	...	2	2	1	6	4	1	—	—	3	2	—
Spon Lane	...	9	6	8	8	9	1	2	1	1	3	1
Fisher Street	...	—	—	1	—	5	1	2	2	—	—	2
Hill Top	...	2	5	1	10	13	2	—	—	—	1	2
Bratt Street	...	2	3	2	6	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Saints	..	1	3	2	1	12	1	1	2	2	2	1
Christ Church	...	1	1	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
Trinity	...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. James'	...	5	4	4	1	7	—	—	2	—	—	—
St. Michael's	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Peter's	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
Totals	...	35	39	47	54	138	20	17	29	22	22	13

TABLE B.—*Continued.*

CHILDREN BORN IN 1904.

School.		Clothes.	Boots.	Unclean.	Vermin.	Teeth.	Nose.	Throat.	Eyes.	Ears.	Hearing	Phthisis.
Beeches Road	...	2	2	8	5	22	5	5	6	3	4	—
Black Lake	...	4	4	4	3	11	—	—	3	2	1	1
Bull Lane	...	—	—	11	5	5	2	3	5	3	1	—
Golds Hill	...	4	8	9	3	9	1	2	2	—	—	—
Greets Green	...	6	12	17	10	22	1	6	3	1	—	—
Guns Village	...	2	5	7	13	11	2	2	5	4	2	2
Lodge Estate	...	3	5	10	4	24	6	8	5	2	1	—
Lyng	...	4	5	20	2	18	12	12	2	2	2	—
Moor Street	...	2	5	9	5	5	2	1	8	2	1	1
Spon Lane	...	5	14	16	16	32	8	6	6	3	1	1
Fisher Street	...	—	8	2	3	16	5	6	3	6	5	2
Hill Top	..	6	11	7	12	11	4	3	6	2	3	1
Bratt Street	...	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	—
All Saints'	...	1	1	5	—	4	5	5	2	1	2	—
Christ Church	...	—	5	5	—	8	3	5	2	—	—	—
Trinity	...	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
St. James'	...	4	4	9	3	12	5	3	2	2	1	1
St. Michael's	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
St. Peter's	...	—	—	5	2	6	2	3	2	—	—	2
Totals	...	46	93	146	90	220	67	75	62	53	24	12

TABLE C.

CHILDREN BORN IN 1898. FINAL EXAMINATION IN 1910.

Name of School.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Clothes.	Boots.	Unclean.	Vermin.	Teeth.	Mouth Breathers.	Throat.	Vision.	Ears.	Hearing.
Beeches Road	... 41	47	88	—	1	3	10	29	2	1	8	2	2
Black Lake	... 43	59	102	11	10	4	10	19	1	—	13	—	—
Golds Hill	... 16	17	33	6	9	3	—	7	—	—	5	—	—
Greets Green	... 41	42	83	6	12	—	7	17	—	—	8	—	—
Guns Village	... 50	47	97	18	17	3	7	28	—	—	11	2	2
Lodge Estate	... 48	49	97	8	7	2	3	27	1	1	21	—	—
Lyng	... 54	43	97	7	6	2	1	29	2	2	11	1	1
Moor Street	... —	34	34	4	4	1	7	7	2	1	5	1	1
Spon Lane	... 68	69	137	15	16	5	26	21	—	—	18	—	1
Fisher Street	... 35	35	70	6	7	—	2	14	1	1	22	—	—
Hill Top	... 41	22	63	8	6	2	2	17	—	2	5	1	2
Bratt Street	... 45	44	89	11	12	2	—	18	1	—	3	—	2
All Saints'	... 29	24	53	4	10	2	9	10	—	1	5	—	—
Christ Church	... 26	35	61	8	9	—	11	18	1	1	10	1	2
Holy Trinity	... 27	10	37	2	2	—	1	5	—	—	4	—	—
St. James'	... 28	23	51	5	2	—	5	6	—	—	7	—	1
St. Michael's	... 4	6	10	1	2	—	2	3	—	—	2	—	—
St. Peter's	... 22	16	38	—	—	—	5	8	—	—	4	—	—
Totals	... 618	622	1240	120	132	29	108	283	11	10	162	8	14

Total Children, 1240.

TABLE D.

CHILDREN BORN IN 1898—FINAL EXAMINATION, 1910.

STANDARDS.																		
Name of School.	VII.		VI.		V.		IV.		III.		II.		I.		B.	G.	Total.	
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.				
Beeches Road	7	5	16	18	14	15	3	7	1	—	—	2	—	—	41	47	88	
Black Lake ...	10	19	12	12	12	20	6	6	2	2	1	—	—	—	43	59	102	
Golds Hill ...	3	5	6	8	4	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	17	33	
Greets Green	10	5	12	15	11	13	5	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	41	42	83	
Guns Village	20	11	19	20	6	9	5	3	—	2	—	1	—	1	50	47	97	
Lodge Estate	15	9	16	17	14	14	3	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	48	49	97	
Lyng ...	15	12	22	11	10	10	4	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	54	43	97	
Moor Street ..	—	5	—	16	—	6	—	3	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	34	34	
Spon Lane ...	2	10	36	30	14	18	9	8	7	—	—	3	—	—	68	69	137	
Fisher Street	10	6	15	10	4	10	5	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	35	35	70	
Hill Top ...	19	9	16	7	3	5	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	41	22	63	
Bratt Street ...	5	2	20	14	13	11	5	14	1	2	1	—	—	1	45	44	89	
All Saints' ...	5	7	13	10	9	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	24	53	
Christ Church	3	2	16	29	7	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	35	61	
Trinity ...	2	2	12	8	6	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	10	37	
St. James' ...	15	11	9	6	1	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	23	51	
St. Michael's	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	4	6	10	
St. Peter's ...	7	6	8	4	6	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	16	38	
Totals	149	126	249	237	134	153	63	79	21	13	2	11	—	3	618	622	1240	

APPENDIX.

Although the Department has not yet directed any re-examination of the children at first examined on admission, I felt so great a desire to ascertain for myself some results of the work done that I determined to re-examine at least one school this year. I selected the school which holds the record for Infant Attendance, Fisher Street, and have great pleasure in reporting what I found.

In 1908 I examined on admission children born in 1902 to the number of 94, of whom I saw the parents in 88 cases. I set aside 29 children as in some respect defective. On re-inspection I found with departures and arrivals, some of whom had never been examined or for whom no cards could be discovered or obtained from elsewhere, 87 children for examination. In no less than 21 cases a marked improvement could be found, due to the action of the child's parents or natural guardians. Eight cases had successfully undergone throat operations with marked good effect, four had received thorough attention to their teeth, three very bad cases of discharging ears had been cured, three cases had procured glasses, two very severe cases of eczema were completely recovered, and one very bad case of urinary fistula, which was insufferable in school, had undergone a successful operation, and was no longer a nuisance to himself and others.

I found no verminous children, the cases previously noted being spotlessly clean, although no notice had been given of my visit.

That I shall find so good a record in all schools is not to be expected, and great credit must be given to the teachers, through whose influence with parents so happy a result has been attained.

H. M.



County Borough of West Bromwich.

REPORTS

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

Borough Analyst,

AND

Inspector under the Food
and Drugs Acts,

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

WEST BROMWICH:

Printed by JOSEPH BATES, Caxton Works, 12 and 14, Paradise Street.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

INTRODUCTION.

I beg to submit my Twelfth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the County Borough of West Bromwich.

No changes have occurred in the *personnel* of the Inspectorial Staff, which still consists, therefore, of District Inspectors Cotterell and Lyon.

Good work has been accomplished by both Assistants, as regards the ordinary routine work, Mr. Lyon having, in addition, paid close attention to the special work associated with the inspection of meat and other foods.

The relatively small incidence of Infectious Disease during the earlier months of the year enabled more progress to be made with systematic house-to-house visitations than has been possible with the reduced staff during the last few years, but in the concluding months the whole of the time of both Assistants was taken up with reporting on cases of Infectious Disease and in general inspections. In spite of this, the number of permanent sanitary improvements effected as a result of the work of the Department manifests a satisfactory increase.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

The stipulations of the Public Health Act, 1875, respecting periodical inspection of houses, have been complied with for many years past, but in view of the new provisions contained in the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, and more particularly Section 15 of that Act, which imposes upon the Council the duty of ascertaining that houses newly occupied after the passing of the Act and let at a rental not exceeding £26, are kept in all respects reasonably fit for

human habitation, increased importance must necessarily be attached to house-to-house inspections. The districts selected for special attention during the past year have been parts of Lyndon and Sandwell Wards, but blocks of property in other Wards have also been examined in detail. In all, 2,261 houses in 49 streets, representing a population of 7,831, have been inspected and the results duly scheduled. A considerable amount of sub-letting was found to prevail in certain streets in Spon Lane Ward, front living rooms being let to couples with no children or to widows with one or two children. The amount of actual overcrowding, based on the 300 cubic feet standard, was, however, relatively small. Particulars as to rentals were ascertained, these ranging from 1s. to 10s.

A considerable number of houses were found to be in a dirty and dilapidated state, and notices were subsequently served under the Public Health Act, 1875, comparatively few of the houses having been newly occupied since December, 1909. Where it appeared to the District Inspectors that the houses were in such a state as to be dangerous or injurious to health, and unfit for human habitation, I have made a personal inspection, and in several instances, as will be seen in a later portion of this Report, action has been taken under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

The number of miscellaneous inspections made, which includes visits to premises in consequence of complaints received and the systematic visitation of common yards, is again above the average, no fewer than 11,390 inspections having been made. I regret again to have to state that in certain yards where continual changes in tenancies occur, filthy conditions have been found from time to time, and although every effort is made to secure improvement without having recourse to proceedings, I fear that it will be necessary in the near future to ask for authority to prosecute some of the worst offenders, in order that their responsibilities may be brought home to them.

EXAMINATION AND TESTING OF DRAINAGE.

The smoke test was applied to the drainage of 15 houses or premises, in most cases at the request and cost of occupiers. The premises so tested included two banks and a hospital, and

a considerable amount of time had to be devoted to this work and also to the subsequent re-testing of the drains after the requisite repairs and alterations had taken place.

NOTICES SERVED AND PROCEEDINGS.

Particulars are given in Table II. of the 1,141 preliminary notices served upon occupiers and owners. Seven thousand one hundred and fifty-four re-visits were subsequently paid to the premises whilst the work was in course of execution and after completion. One hundred and ninety circular letters were addressed to owners where default had been made, and numerous interviews with owners, agents, or builders with respect to our requirements have taken place.

The number of Statutory Notices served was 286, of which 135 were given under the Public Health Acts, and 151 under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1900.

Although authority was obtained in 44 cases for proceedings, no summonses were issued, the necessary works being usually put in hand directly intimation was received by the owner.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

A detailed summary of sanitary improvements, which provide one of the most satisfactory tests as to the work of the Department, will be found in Table III. The total number of nuisances abated was 3,212.

Filthy and Dilapidated Houses and Outbuildings.

The interiors of some 444 houses have been cleansed and whitewashed, and there have been 391 cases of repairs to brickwork, plastering, and woodwork. The evils attending to the insanitary brick sink are now being grappled with, and 76 earthenware sinks, with proper pipe bends, have been fixed. Leaking roofs and defective spouting at rear have been dealt with, and a large number of cases of defective spouting in fronts of houses have been reported to the Borough Surveyor.

Yard Drainage.

Thirteen premises previously unconnected with the public sewer have been drained and 223 lengths of stoneware pipe drain have replaced the old system of surface gutters; 491 yard gullies have been fixed and 171 inspection chambers have been provided. The number of houses so dealt with was 729.

Disused Wells.

The drainage operations referred to revealed the existence of several disused wells, some of which were only provided with decaying wood coverings, and narrow escapes of danger to life and limb were reported.

Privy and Water-closet Accommodation.

The replacement of privies by water-closets has again proceeded steadily and satisfactorily, and comparatively speaking, with but little friction. Five hundred and ten privies, serving 729 houses, have been abolished and 516 water-closets substituted.

The number of official representations made under the Corporation Act was 139. It was only found necessary in 20 instances to execute work in default, and then mostly at the request or with the concurrence of owners.

The fear at one time expressed that the installation of the water-closet system would involve a heavy annual charge for repairs is scarcely borne out by experience, for it has only been necessary to serve 84 notices on owners to repair water-closet connections, and this notwithstanding that the total number of water-closets now fixed exceeds 9,400.

In spite, too, of the chronic offenders to which I have already referred, the number of notices served to open water-closets or drainage does not show any increase.

OCCUPIERS' NOTICES.

Four hundred and one notices were addressed to occupiers, these dealing with overcrowding, the improper use of sanitary conveniences, and the keeping of animals in an uncleanly state. One of the worst cases of overcrowding which came under our notice was that of a house with two bedrooms, in which resided occupier, his wife, five sons (aged 21, 19, 17, 7 and 6), four daughters (aged 23, 15, 11 and 9), and a married woman lodger with her baby.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Twenty-four houses have been represented by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation, and in every case the necessary order for closure was made. In three cases the houses were thoroughly repaired prior to the orders

being sealed, and service did not, therefore, take place. Twenty houses have been closed, and in three cases, where orders have become operative, demolition notices have been served upon the respective occupiers. Two houses have been demolished by the owners, a demolition order has been made with respect to a third, and further proceedings with respect to the remaining houses were pending at the close of the year.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

The Meat Inspector (Mr. W. E. Lyon) reports that he has made 1,871 visits to slaughter-houses, and 1,362 visits to butchers' shops. He has inspected 2,131 live animals, 1,997 sides and 1,009 quarters of beef, and the carcasses of 4,114 sheep, lambs, calves, or pigs. There has been a considerable diminution as regards diseased meat; but twelve carcasses of beef were found to be wholly or partially affected with tuberculosis. Total destruction of carcasses took place in two instances; the disease being localised in the ten remaining cases, the affected quarters only were destroyed.

The fore-quarters and internal organs of a cow manifesting dropsical symptoms were also destroyed.

In every instance the meat was surrendered by the respective owners, who, in addition, offered every possible assistance to the Meat Inspector. Magistrates' orders for destruction were obtained in five cases.

Shops at which poultry, fish, fruits, etc., have been sold have also been regularly inspected.

The number of slaughter-houses on the register is still 35, no new licenses having been granted during the year. Of these, 13 are subject to an annual license.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

One hundred visits have been paid to the workshop bake-houses during the year, circular letters also being issued every six months to the respective occupiers reminding them of their statutory duty with respect to limewashing. There have been few cases of inattention, but the conditions under which bread is baked in the smaller domestic bakehouses leave much to be desired.

INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Twenty applications for registration as cowkeepers or purveyors of milk have been received during the year, and there are now on the register 29 cowsheds and 107 dairies or milkshops. Several important structural improvements have been made to existing cowsheds, and lighting and ventilation has been improved.

Milkshops and dairies have been regularly visited, and our requirements as to covering vessels used for storage have been more generally complied with than heretofore, but in very few cases only can the premises be said to be perfectly adapted for the sale of milk.

Instructions were given for proceedings to be taken against the keeper of one newly occupied and unregistered cowshed, but the owner having carried out his undertaking to erect a suitable shed, no further action was taken.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Owing to the dilapidated state of the common lodging house in Holloway Bank, renewal of the annual license was suspended. Certain repairs have since been carried out, but the premises are far from being in a satisfactory state. The remaining two applications for renewal were granted. No new lodging houses have been registered.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

I have inspected 206 canal boats, representing a total floating population of 246 men, 147 women, and 262 children. The infringements, none of which were of a serious character, were as follows:—Non-production of certificate, 3 cases; boat not properly marked, 1 case; registration irregularities, 3 cases; overcrowding, 2 cases; want of painting, 8 cases; dilapidated boats, 8 cases. Seventeen notices were served with respect to the foregoing infringements, and in most instances these have already been remedied.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Three hundred and fifty-seven cases of infectious disease were reported on, special attention being directed in the cases of diphtheria and typhoid fever, to the condition of sanitary fittings, etc. Where removal to hospital did not take place, the cases were re-visited from time to time.

Three hundred and eighty-seven rooms have been fumigated after removal, convalescence or death.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND REFUSE.

Nine thousand five hundred and thirty-six middens and ashpits have been emptied during the year, a considerable proportion of the same having been registered by the staff. The cost of removal was £2,662 2s. 6d., as compared with £2,702 4s. 10d. in 1909.

Most of the middens and ashpits were subsequently inspected, and instances of neglect brought to the notice of the contractors. Two of the contractors have, unfortunately, given a considerable amount of trouble, owing to repeated neglect to periodically empty cesspools or ashbins or to carry out instructions as to discontinuance of tips.

The number of dust bins on the weekly list is now upwards of 6,800. The contractors are responsible for 4,300 of these, men in the direct employ of the Corporation attending to the remainder.

The total cost of this branch of the work has been £483 8s. 4d., as compared with £454 9s. 1d. in 1909, the slight increase being due to the necessary provision of an additional horse and cart, consequent on the refuse having to be conveyed to the Destructor Works.

The total amount expended on refuse removal has, therefore been £3,145 10s. 10d. as compared with £3,157 3s. 11d. in the previous year.

The Cemetery Lane fish tip and the Lyttleton Street refuse tip were closed in June last, and the services of the two men employed in levelling dispensed with. Mr. W. A. Jackson,

the Borough Electrical Engineer, informs me that up to 31st December last 3,861 loads of refuse had been delivered to the Destructor Works, the total weight being 4,517 tons.

Acting in accordance with your instructions a special report was prepared on the future arrangements for the removal of house refuse, and as a result of your decision the whole of the work incidental to the emptying of ashbins and dry ashpits will be carried out by men directly employed by the Corporation. It is hoped that this course will result in a considerable diminution in the volume of complaints received.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. H. SPEARS, Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Assoc.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

January, 1911.

TABLE I.

House-to-house inspections	2261
Miscellaneous inspections, including inspections of common yards and houses concerning which com- plaints have been received... ..	11390
Re-inspections	7154
Visits to slaughter-houses	1811
,, ,, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops ...	455
,, ,, shops, butchers	1362
,, ,, ,, fish, game and poultry	316
,, ,, bakehouses	100
,, ,, common lodging houses	120
,, ,, fat melting works, etc.	9
Number of canal boats inspected	206
Cases of infectious disease visited and reported on...	344
Other visits in connection with cases of infectious disease	247
Number of privies, etc., inspected and reported for emptying by staff	1491
Number of privies, etc., re-inspected after emptying	4146
Sundry visits	1084
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Total number of inspections and visits	32496
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Number of preliminary notices served	1141
,, ,, statutory notices served	286
,, ,, letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances	190
Notices served under Canal Boats Acts	17
Reports sent to Surveyor <i>re</i> dangerous buildings, etc.	61
Reports sent to Water Company <i>re</i> wastes of water...	95
Number of rooms disinfected	387
Number of reports sent to schools <i>re</i> infectious diseases	237
Number of drains tested	15

TABLE II.
PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER
OF HOUSES IN CONNECTION WITH NOTICES.

		Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses ...	...	311	722
Filthy and dilapidated outhouses ...	...	77	192
Defective paving and surface channels ...	...	13	25
Defective eaves and downspouting ...	...	20	41
Foul, untrapped drainage ...	...	2	2
Choked drainage and W.C.'s ...	...	232	321
Insufficient ashbin accommodation ...	...	156	381
„ sanitary „ ...	...	6	8
Foul, wet and open middens ...	...	113	225
Defective W.C. connections ...	...	81	171
Filthy state of sanitary conveniences ...	...	37	38
Overcrowded rooms ...	...	46	46
Animals improperly kept ...	...	4	4
Offensive accumulations ...	...	8	20
Water in cellars ...	...	8	11
Insufficient water supply ...	...	9	28
Filthy Bakehouse ...	...	1	1
Dairies and cowsheds not in accordance with regulations ...	...	5	5
Dangerous wells and cisterns ...	...	5	10
Miscellaneous ...	...	7	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals ...	1141	2259

TABLE III.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN
DISTRICT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS
MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.*Interior of Houses—*

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed	...	444
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork have been carried out	... ..	391
Flooded cellars drained or filled in	... ..	10
Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, window openings or other means of ventilation provided	... ..	13

Exterior of Houses—

Defective roofs made watertight	... ..	171
Houses without eaves spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided or existing spouting cleansed and repaired	... ..	183
Damp external walls. Brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material	... ..	7
Dangerous chimneys repaired	... ..	6

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed, or repaired	... ..	42
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable coverings provided	... ..	12
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks	... ..	76
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired	... ..	120

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer or cesspool	... ..	13
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided	... ..	223
Defective drainage relaid or repaired	... ..	10
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	... ..	171
Additional gullies fixed	... ..	491
Choked drainage opened and cleansed	... ..	52

Privies, Water-closets, and Ashpits—

Privies abolished	510
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	373
Dry ashpits abolished and dustbins substituted...					15
Water-closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies	...	...	...	...	516
Fresh water-closets substituted for waste water-closets	...	...	...	...	4
Percolations of fæcal matter from privies, etc., privies cemented	...	...	...	...	2
Galvanised dustbins provided in lieu of middens...					434
Additional ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	203
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits					23
Choked water-closets opened and cleansed				...	56
Defective W.C. connections made good...				...	84
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved	...	...	...	...	16
Defective tippers renewed and inspection chambers provided to waste water-closets			...	...	7

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—

Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated	...	3
Fowls or other poultry kept in dwelling houses or so as to be a nuisance—removed from premises		2

Overcrowding—

Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced...	...	38
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Miscellaneous—

Manure pits provided or repaired	7	
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	5	
Filthy approaches to privies and conveniences cleansed by occupiers	75

Water Supply—

Houses without a proper supply of drinking water—water laid on	3
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Factory and Workshops Act—

Filthy and dilapidated bakehouses cleansed or repaired	3
Closet accommodation provided or repaired				...	3

Dairies and Cowsheds—

Dairies cleansed and limewashed	5
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Infectious Diseases—

Walls cleansed and stripped	5
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Housing and Town Planning Act—

Houses unfit for human habitation closed	...	20
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Total	...	<hr/> 4847
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Analyst's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee,
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that during the year 1910, 140 samples were submitted to me for analysis by the officials administering the Food and Drugs Acts in your Borough. This number is precisely the same as in the previous year. Again following the suggestion of the Local Government Board, 21 samples were obtained "unofficially" by the agents of the Inspector, but this method of testing the quality of the food supply failed to reveal any adulteration, the whole of the condemned samples being purchased in a formal manner.

Below I give a table, which contains a summary of the articles analysed during the year 1910. The samples are divided into three classes, according to their quality, viz.:—

- (1) Genuine and of good quality.
- (2) Genuine, complying with the necessarily low limits, but of poor quality.
- (3) Adulterated.

Description of Article.	Total Number of Samples.	"Officially" Purchased Samples.	"Unofficially" Purchased Samples.	Genuine Samples.	Genuine Samples of Poor Quality.		Adulterated Samples.		Vendors Prosecuted.
					Official.	Un-official.	Official.	Un-official.	
Milk ..	80	79	1	68	5	1	6	...	4
Butter ...	55	37	18	55					
Flour ...	1	...	1	1					
Suet ...	1	...	1	1					
Spirits ...	3	3	..	3					
	140	119	21	128	5	1	6	...	4

The number of articles returned as adulterated was 6, or a percentage of 4.28, which is identical with the figure given in the Report of the previous year.

The next Table contains a list of the adulterated samples, with information as to the nature of the adulteration and the results of any proceedings that were instituted against the vendors.

Description of Article.	Nature and extent of Adulteration.	Remarks.
Milk (No. 1436)	Deficient of 3% of non-fatty solids.	No action.
Milk (No. 1476)	Deficient of 12% of its natural butter fat.	No action. Retailer supplied by the vendor of samples 1,485 & 1,486.
Milk (No. 1485)	Deficient of 9% of its natural butter fat.	Fined 10/- and £2 costs.
Milk (No. 1486)	Deficient of 6% of its natural butter fat.	Paid costs, 15/-.
Milk (No. 1502)	Deficient of 22% of its non-fatty solids.	Fined £5 and £1 11s. costs.
Milk (No. 1503)	Deficient of 7% of its non-fatty solids & also of 15% of its natural butter fat.	Fined £3 and £1 11s. costs.

Milk, as usual, owing to its being a food of such general consumption, was largely sampled during the year. Six samples, or 7.5 per cent., were condemned, and a similar percentage were of poor quality, though complying with the requirements of the Board of Agriculture. Preservatives were entirely absent. Proceedings were taken against the vendors in four cases of adulteration, and in every instance a conviction was obtained. As regards the other two samples reported against, the deficiency was very slight in sample 1436, whilst the vendor of sample 1485 was supplied by a wholesale man, who was prosecuted and fined.

All the other samples, although a good number of them were purchased informally, proved on analysis to be genuine.

During the year one sample of water was analysed. It was contaminated with sewage or animal matter, and accordingly condemned as unsafe to use for drinking purposes.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER, B.Sc., F.I.C.
(Public Analyst.)

Food and Drugs Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit a Report of the work carried out under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts during the year ending December 31st, 1910.

I have obtained 140 samples under the provisions of the above Acts, consisting of the following:—

New Milk, 80; Butter, 55; Vesco, 1; Atora, 1; Whisky, 3.

These were all submitted to and were analysed by the Public Analyst, who certified 125 samples (89.29 per cent.) as “genuine,” 9 samples (6.43 per cent.) as “genuine but of low quality,” and 6 samples (4.28 per cent.) as “adulterated.”

All the inferior samples were milks.

The adulterated samples consisted of 6 milks.

In one case the deficiency of fat was 3 per cent., and the vendor was cautioned only. In a second case the deficiency of fat amounted to 12 per cent., but no proceedings were taken, as in tracing the supply it was discovered to have been adulterated by the wholesale dealer; from the latter two samples were obtained, and found to be adulterated, and proceedings were taken, the farmer being convicted.

The remaining two adulterated samples were obtained from a local farmer, whilst the milk was in course of delivery to the retailer. These were found to be heavily adulterated, and proceedings being taken, he was convicted.

The fines and costs in these cases amounted to £11 2s., and the defendant, in default of payment of same, went to gaol for two months with hard labour.

In the appended Table, I give particulars of the nature, substance, and quality of the articles examined.

SUMMARY.

Nature of Food or Drug.	No. of Samples Analysed.	Genuine.	Genuine but of Low Quality.	Adulterated.	Cautioned.	Prosecuted.	Convicted.	Amount of Penalties.			Amount of Costs.			Remarks.
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
New Milk	80	65	9	6	2	4	4	8	10	0	5	17	0	22% added water.
Butter ...	55	55												7% added water and 15% deficient of fat.
Vesco ...	1	1												Went to gaol for 2 months with hard labour in default of payment.
Atora ...	1	1												9% deficient of its natural fat.
Whisky ...	3	3												6% deficient of its natural fat.
	140	125	9	6	2	4	4	8	10	0	5	17	0	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. WM. DAVIS.

